

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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## Monthly Memo TO: Local Presidents

**T**HIS MEMO gives me the opportunity to extend to each one of you my best wishes for a happy Christmas. It is not easy to be happy this year, when so many of our homes have vacant chairs and we are all under heavy strains in one way or another. Yet at such a time we have greater need than ever of keeping alive the family traditions so dear to us. As we draw closer to

each other and to the real spirit of the season, our hearts go out in tenderness to those less fortunate than ourselves, not only at home but in foreign lands. The children of the whole world should be our deep concern as we celebrate the festival of The Child.

**A** REPORT on "The Health of Children in Occupied Europe," published by the International Labor Office, has come to my desk recently. It is not a pleasant document. After reading it I longed to send at least a cake of soap, as a Christmas gift, to every family in distressed Europe. Food, fuel, shelter, clothes, shoes, medical supplies, and other vital necessities are fast deteriorating in quality and diminishing in quantity, but the lack of soap seems to be the proverbial last straw. You may say, "But soap is such a trifling lack." And yet, without it, people cannot keep their bodies clean; their clothes become filthy, and their surroundings even more so. Filth breeds disease, and epidemics run riot. And what is fully as important, self-respect is lost and morale is lowered when people are not able to maintain even bodily cleanliness.

Children, the world over, are becoming the chief casualties of war. It is not a happy thought at Christmas, but it should spur us on to take even better care of all our children in this country, and also to be understanding of the human needs of the millions in the war-torn lands. The plight of today's war children will back up our determination to rid the world of war, once we have bound up the wounds of the world caused by this present havoc.

The things for which we stand and for which we work are of vital importance today to the entire world. Let us, each in his own community, take the lead in all that concerns the welfare of children; let us, as a national organization, make our influence felt for the good of all children everywhere.

Again, the season's best greetings to you.



*Minnetta A. Hastings*

President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

**A**RE YOU listening to **The Baxters** and to the "**Voice of the P.T.A.**" over the NBC radio stations on Saturdays from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m., Eastern War Time? The Chicago area listeners, serviced by station WMAQ, hear the program on Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., Central War Time. There will be no broadcast on Christmas Day, but the program will be resumed on January 1 and will continue through February 5, 1944.

## P. T. A. RADIO FAMILY DISCUSSES HOME PROBLEMS

**T**HAT typically American family, the Baxters, is fast becoming a household word in thousands of homes. Listeners who last year made the acquaintance of Marge and Bill Baxter and their three children, Janey, Bud, and Sandy, are confirmed fans now. And as usual with radio fans, their enthusiasm is infectious—which means that it's spreading!

Again we are indebted to the National Broadcasting Company for presenting this program over the NBC network. It is broadcast on Saturdays, 1:30-1:45 p.m., Eastern War Time.

If for any reason you have difficulty in getting the Baxters on the air, consult your local NBC broadcasting stations. They will be glad to cooperate by recording each Saturday's program and rebroadcasting it at a convenient time.

The titles of the December and January programs indicate the timeliness and urgency of the subjects discussed:

- *Whose Job — His or Hers?*
- *The Major Needs of Minors*
- *Easy Come, Easy Go*
- *Marriage Is for Keeps*
- *Watch Your Step*
- *The Family Talks It Over*

At the end of each broadcast, "The Voice of the P.T.A." points out, briefly and effectively, the responsibility of the P.T.A. in dealing with the problem just dramatized on the air.

If you haven't organized a listening group, get one together NOW. If you haven't told all your neighbors and friends about these broadcasts, do so RIGHT AWAY.

## "PUBLIC PROBLEM NUMBER ONE"

... A stirring article that is a "must" for every person concerned with juvenile delinquency. Written by Mrs. Arch West, chairman of the committee on Juvenile Protection of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, this feature appears in the January issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*. All parent-teacher workers in the field of juvenile delinquency should have their attention called to it.

# ENLISTING THE INTEREST OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



## *Another Answer to the Juvenile Delinquency Problem*

**T**HE MOVEMENT for taking high school students into parent-teacher membership is spreading rapidly — with splendid results all the way around. Enlisting the interest and cooperation of young people may well be one way of handling the juvenile delinquency problem. Certainly it is worth trying.

### *Saginaw, Michigan, P. T. S. A. Has Record Membership*

For several years the Saginaw High School P.T.A. was languishing, and, in the words of the president, Mrs. George E. Schwalm, "Saginaw High has never had a very large membership and has had very small attendance at meetings generally. This year, with our youth behind the Membership chairman, we have a membership to date of 1,233 and more coming in. We have included our young people on our executive board and on all committees as well. We have had excellent support from the school itself.

"We have eight very instructive programs planned and some outstanding speakers engaged, including Dr. Anspach, of Mt. Pleasant Normal, and Floyd Starr, of Starr Commonwealth for Boys. . . . We shall have a beautiful Christmas program and a stimulating panel discussion on 'What do you think of your school,' by a parent, a teacher, a boy student, and a girl student."

### *Cooperation Between P. T. A. and Junior Council*

"Since the needs of a high school P.T.A. are quite different from those in any other school, it seemed wise to set up plans definitely geared to the needs of high school boys and girls," writes Mrs. A. M. Brown, of Knoxville, **Tennessee**, chairman of High School Service for the third district.

"Last year a Junior P.T.A. Council was organized, with one student selected from each home group of the school to serve on the council. They meet once a month, with a program and business and sometimes a social hour. At stated times the P.T.A. board meets with the Junior Council board to consider together the needs of the schools and to plan cooperative effort to meet those needs. One officer from the Junior Council sits as a regular member of the P.T.A. board.

"The Junior Council assisted with the membership drive and conducted a poll on 'What does P.T.A. mean to a school?' Each program throughout the year is jointly an enterprise of the P.T.A. and the Junior Council. The young people appear on the programs and are entirely responsible for at least one program during the year. A program on the subject, 'What can I do to improve my school?' conducted by the students, resulted in a day being set aside as 'Clean Out Locker Day.'

"Not only has the formation of the Junior Council helped to bring about closer cooperation between parents and students in the school enterprise, but it has done much toward killing the old antagonism against parents visiting the high school and participating in its interests."

### *Minnesota Congress Sponsors Essay Contest*

Another fine way of arousing student interest is through a contest — a perennial favorite of young and old. The Minnesota Congress is sponsoring an essay contest on the subject, "What can the high school parent-teacher association do to assist students?" The contest, which closes March 1, 1944, is open to all junior and senior high school pupils in Minnesota.

This is a very clever way of putting a problem right up to the boys and girls themselves. Undoubtedly the contest will bring forth some fine suggestions that the P.T.A.'s can well put into practice. In any case, it will start young people thinking along constructive lines.



## NATIONAL RADIO *Script Service*

The Radio Script Service, inaugurated last spring under the chairmanship of Dr. Alice Sowers, has gone over in a big way. Radio stations in twenty states — including such population centers as New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Massachusetts, and California — are using the scripts most successfully, and more stations are being added to the list all the time.

• Another index of popularity is the fact that more than two hundred persons, from thirty different states, have written to the National Office requesting scripts.

• One P.T.A. wrote: "You are making it easy . . . to do what we want to do," and another: "The splendid scripts that have been coming through the Radio Script Service . . . are greatly appreciated."

### *New Scripts Available*

Two new scripts — "Keeping Safe at Home" and "Fear and Anger In Children" — are now available, in addition to the thirteen previously announced, and another new series will be ready on January 3. As soon as a new script is prepared, it is sent to every state chairman of Radio (or Audio-Visual Education). From that point on, it is the chairman's job to see that every local Radio chairman knows about it — and does something about it. Local broadcasting stations are quick to recognize the worth of these scripts and are most cooperative in giving them time on the air.

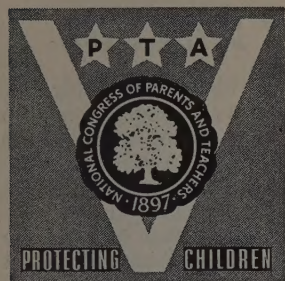
• Since the cast is usually made up of local P.T.A. members, who may or may not have had previous radio experience, the scripts are kept as simple as possible. Dramatic experience is by no means essential for the successful production of these scripts.

• At the request of either the state or local Radio chairman, two copies of any chosen script are supplied without cost — one for the P.T.A. member in charge of the local program and one for the local broadcasting station. Additional copies may be ordered from the National Office, 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago 5, at a cost of ten cents each.

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# WARTIME ACTIVITIES OF THE P.T.A.

## 2. Supporting the Educational Program

AS THE second article in our wartime activities series, we are including reports from various sections of the country about the P.T.A. support of education. This phase of wartime activity must not be sidetracked by the pressing demands of the juvenile delinquency problem. Parent-teacher associations can support the educational program in many ways, some of which are more direct than others, but all of which are helpful in achieving our ultimate objective. Those described below may furnish suggestions for other states.

—Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher  
CHAIRMAN, WAR COMMITTEE

### ALABAMA

#### Educational Questionnaire for Candidates

• For several years the Birmingham Council has been emphasizing legislation for better schools, but this year it inaugurated a new plan that might well be introduced in other states. Immediately before the Alabama legislature convened for its spring session, the Birmingham Council sent every member a questionnaire asking how he stood on certain educational questions. The Council was especially interested in increased appropriations for teacher retirement and teachers' salaries.

*The questionnaire received wide publicity and was of definite help to the cause of education in Alabama. The 1943 legislature did more for the schools of the state than any other legislature has done in many years. During the entire session the Birmingham Council was on the job with letters, telegrams, and personal contacts.*

### WISCONSIN

#### Cooperation With State Education Association

• Each fall when the Wisconsin Education Association gathers for its annual convention, the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers is invited to attend and hold a section meeting. All the privileges extended to individual or special groups of teachers to enable them to meet and discuss their work are provided for parent-teacher members.

The Wisconsin Education Association submitted a resolution to its representative assembly as follows: "We commend the P.T.A. for its support of the schools. We encourage its continued concern in active plans to deal with the problems contributing to delinquency, and to this end we pledge our unqualified support."

### MASSACHUSETTS Cooperation with Teachers Colleges

• The Massachusetts state board of managers endorsed and successfully promoted legislation to raise the minimum salary of teachers in the public schools from \$850 to \$1,200. In addition, the active cooperation between the Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association and the ten teachers colleges was of great benefit to both groups.

Parents came to a better understanding of the value of these state educational institutions. As one member said, "We never knew them before, but now we have come to feel they belong to us." On the other hand, the faculty of each of the colleges obtained a better picture of the parent-teacher organization and of parents' needs and problems. Seniors

are going out into their new positions well equipped for work in local parent-teacher organizations.

A committee from the teachers colleges offered members of their faculties as speakers at eight P.T.A. district conferences. The president of the Worcester Teachers College is on the program of the state convention, and a member of the faculty of the Fitchburg Teachers College took part in a radio program in Boston sponsored by the Massachusetts P.T.A.

Three representatives from the state board of managers were included in the New England Council on Wartime Teachers Supply. Except for professional educators, this board was the only group represented.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

#### Keeping School Funds Intact

• For some years the South Dakota Congress has been interested in keeping intact the large permanent school fund provided for in the original draft of the state constitution. When such a fund is shifted about it is usually absorbed in general funds and eventually lost.

The increased wartime demands for money have made it more important than ever to guard this school fund. Whenever it seems threatened, the parent-teacher groups join hands with the educators in molding public opinion to the extent that any proposed constitutional amendment that would endanger the fund is voted down.

*In each of the ten spring conferences, the matter of raising salaries so as to retain capable teachers was discussed. The South Dakota Education Association sent its field secretary and furnished the transportation for the parent-teacher mobile staff.*

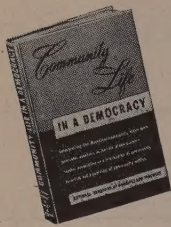
This job of informing the people is done through editorials in the press and school magazines, through radio and other talks, and — perhaps most effectively — through the study of the proposed amendment in parent-teacher study groups. These groups analyze the situation and become familiar with both sides, so that they can vote intelligently and can explain the issue to others.

### IOWA ASKS:

1. How many teachers have you lost?
2. Where have they gone?
3. How do their new salaries compare with what you paid them for teaching?
4. How do your new teachers compare with the old?
5. Were the colleges able to supply the needed number of fully prepared new teachers?
6. Are your children as well taught as they were a year ago? As well taught as they deserve?
7. What is being done to hold good teachers by adjusting salaries fully? By your locality? By your state?
8. Can proper adjustment be made with Federal aid? If not, do your representatives in Congress understand what is needed, and why?
9. School authorities in your community and in your state can help you find answers to these questions. Dare you fail to find them out?

From a folder published by the Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers.

## PUBLICATIONS SERVICE



**T**HE national portion of your P.T.A. dues is **5c per member**. From the total dues collected, the National Board of Managers sets aside a sum each year for the preparation, production, and distribution of parent-teacher publications. The majority of these are sent in bulk to the state congresses and are mailed from the state offices to the local associations.

In addition, each association receives a subscription to the *National Congress Bulletin*, since part of the dues is set aside for this purpose.

Sufficient quantities of the following publications have been supplied to the state congresses to enable them to give *one free to each P.T.A.*:

Guiding Principles  
P.T.A. War Handbook  
Bylaws  
Parliamentary Procedures  
Study Group Techniques  
The Strength of an Organization  
The P.T.A. in Community Service  
Founders Day Presentations  
Summer Round-Up of the Children  
P.T.A. Horizons  
Parent-Teacher Publicity Handbook  
Projects and Purposes  
Parent-Teacher Manual (an average of two allowed for each association)  
Wartime Service Packet  
Wartime Pledge and Objects Card  
*National Parent-Teacher Magazine* study course leaflets  
General Information leaflet  
Plateprints:  
American Songs for Victory  
What Parent-Teacher Membership Means  
Choral Groups  
Why a Congress P.T.A.?

Extra copies of all the publications listed above are available to state congresses *at cost*. Any local group that wishes to give copies to officers and chairmen may get them at a nominal price from the state office.

The members of the special committee on Congress Publications hope that these materials are being used extensively. Does your P.T.A. keep them together for reference use in a place that is easily accessible and known to all the members? Do you display them all at one of your meetings during the year so that members may see for themselves what a wealth and variety of material are placed at their disposal by virtue of their membership in the National Congress?

## PUBLICITY PROGRAM FOR LOCAL DAY CARE COMMITTEE

The Office of Community War Services, in cooperation with the Children's Bureau and the Office of Education, suggests a nine-point publicity program for the use of local day care committees.

1. Find out exactly what your community has to offer as regards nursery schools, foster homes, counseling service, before and after school services, etc.
2. Prepare a fact sheet listing these data.
3. Call a meeting of the local child care committee and elect a publicity representative to work with the Defense Council.
4. Establish personal contact with local editors, radio stations, etc.
5. Provide the child care committee with fact sheets and other materials.
6. Try to get posters, etc., put up in public places.
7. Ask the local editors to publish interviews, editorials, features, etc., regarding the work of the committee.
8. Ask local radio stations to broadcast interviews with mothers.
9. Arrange special events: Open House, poster contests, moving pictures, etc.

## Handbook for Volunteer Speakers

Whenever there is a vital message to carry to the public, volunteer speakers are in the forefront in carrying it. The Department of Agriculture has prepared a mimeographed pamphlet for such speakers entitled "Information for Public Speakers on Food Waste." It contains forceful, authenticated facts—the kind that every speaker needs to "hammer home" the salient points about the production, care, use, conservation, and shortage of food.

The pamphlet may be obtained by writing the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

How many other officers and chairmen see your copy of the *National Congress Bulletin*? Don't pigeon-hole it! Pass it along! An informed membership is an effective membership.

## The First Step

The ultimate objective of Magazine chairmen is to see that *every* family in *every* local parent-teacher association is a subscriber to the *National Parent-Teacher*. "A dream," you say? Not at all, merely an ambitious goal that **CAN** be realized. Before we can even hope to gain momentum in reaching that distant goal, however, we must **TAKE THE FIRST STEP**.

• We must see that every local association has at least **ONE** subscription. When this first easy step is accomplished, the goal may still seem a long way off, but you'll be surprised at how quickly you gain momentum **AFTER TAKING THAT FIRST STEP**. It is much like a train journey; once the streamliner has left the station, it gains speed steadily.

• The enthusiasm and interest aroused by this first subscription will give momentum to the project. The subscriber will talk glowingly about the Magazine. Other members will inquire about it; soon they will realize that they're missing out on something pretty fine. And you can assure them that they *are* missing something good, but that the matter can be quickly remedied. By that time you'll be well along on your journey — and gaining momentum with every new subscription.

• If your P.T.A. hasn't at least one subscription to its *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*, won't you make it a New Year's resolution to help it to take **THAT FIRST STEP** at the next meeting?

**Every new subscriber will mean a member better equipped for service to children and youth.**

Your P.T.A. **BOOKSHELF** is not complete unless it contains a copy of *Community Life in a Democracy*. This book sells for \$1 and may be ordered from your state office or from the National Office (600 S. Michigan Blvd. Chicago 5, Illinois). The National Congress makes no profit whatever on any of its publications, but distributes them at cost as a service to the membership.

**SAVE**

**THE**

**FAT**